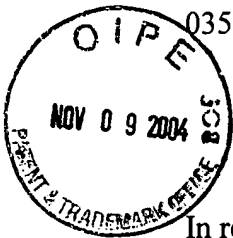


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

YOSHINORI ITO

Application No.: 09/783,073

Filed: February 15, 2001

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,
IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

Examiner: Calvin L. Hewitt II

Group Art Unit: 3621

November 5, 2004

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GROUP 3600

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

The Office Action dated August 5, 2004, imposed a restriction requirement
in the above-identified application, requiring that the present application be restricted to
one of the following inventions:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United
States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

November 5, 2004.
(Date of Deposit)

LEONARD P. DIANA (Reg. No. 29,296)
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Leonard P. Diana
Signature

November 5, 2004
Date of Signature

Group I: Claims 1-17 and 33-37 -- drawn to watermarking; and

Group II: Claims 18-32 -- drawn to electronic shopping.

In response, Applicant elects, without traverse, initially to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-17 and 33-37 in the present application.

An Information Disclosure Statement is in preparation and will be submitted shortly.

An early and favorable examination on the merits of the claims in the elected Group is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

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